August 2009

Depot Town Rag

Volume 24, Number 6

100% FREE RAG CONTENT

Hold that door!
We're coming through!

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Every door in Depot Town opens to a thousand stories

Storied Ville

Given a choice, the tales these fabled bars, bistros, businesses, and shops could tell; multilayered histories, rich in character, nourishing memory and feeding the soul.
Here, the past is palpable, time is fluid, tradition trumps trend.
Linger long at the table, drink deep from the well.
New chapters are written in old setting with few revisions.
Today's present tense becomes tomorrows' recollection, a future footnote.
Savor the moment. Welcome back.

District's old doors open to a history of continuity & quality

Doors at the Follett House opened to "the safest bank in the Michigan Territory" which evolved into the National Bank of Ypsilanti, National Bank of Detroit, Bank One, and now, Chase. "Chase" does not even use the word "bank" in their name. Local customers are advised to ask the bank's manager for ID.

History just keeps piling up on us down here by Ypsi's old RR depot

Late each August it seems everybody in the country comes down to Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town to find out "what's old?" We've heard that silly joke for 31 Heritage Festivals now, but we're polite and act like it's a big and funny surprise to us.

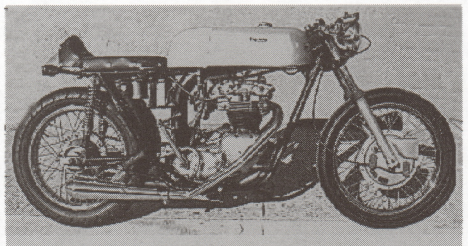
We never seem to be able to catch up and get modern. All summer long we've been hosting old car and truck shows, but does anybody ever think to bring some of those new models down here to show them off? What about those electric models we've been hearing about? Or some of the battery-driven ones? Are they out yet?

School busses bring the tots down here all year 'round to tour the museums and gawk at the old buildings. Some of the local kids even act as guides, but they don't dress up like they're Amish or anything like that. They seem to fit in so well that they act like they own the place. And indeed they do. They're not afraid to talk to strange people either. We are fortunate to get plenty of strange people down here—both young and old.

Home tours and expositions seem to focus on all the old stuff that we have down by the railroad tracks and an awful lot of people are surprised to find the trains are still running. In fact, they run right past the airport, but they don't stop. There are plans for the trains to start stopping here and at Metro Airport by October 2010. We'll see.

Meanwhile, this block never seems to learn how to do it like the Big Box stores do out at the Off-Price Strip Malls. Maybe we should go to a workshop or something to learn how to do this right. Meanwhile, we just keep on keeping on as we have for 178 years.

Today, we're so modern that you don't even have to come in person anymore. You can look us up on the Worldwide Web and act like you were here in person: <www.depottown.org>, Welcome back to Ypsi and its colorful Heritage Festival. Just don't touch anything that looks like it might break. It could be a rare antique or even an expensive fake.



New doors are always opening in this block

Café Racer at 10 East Cross promises to be a unique coffee shop. Leah Halbert John Craddock and Pat Sommers will exhibit vintage motorcycles in their new shop near the Huron River. Inspired more by the Tuesday night Motorcycle Manias than the God's Children Motorcycle Club that once called the district "home," this totally new concept promises to add to new flavor.

DOORS STILL OPEN

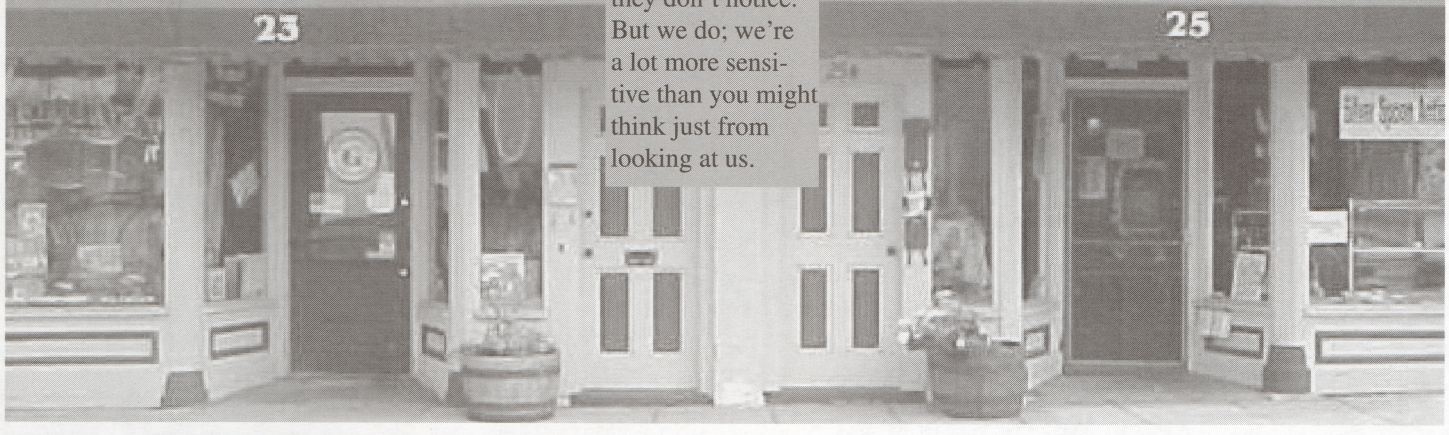
A nearly one-block-long front façade of doors and windows set apart by cast iron columns gives the district a distinctive style and flavor

You won't find many hollow core doors down here. They don't slam well and they carry sound like a drum.

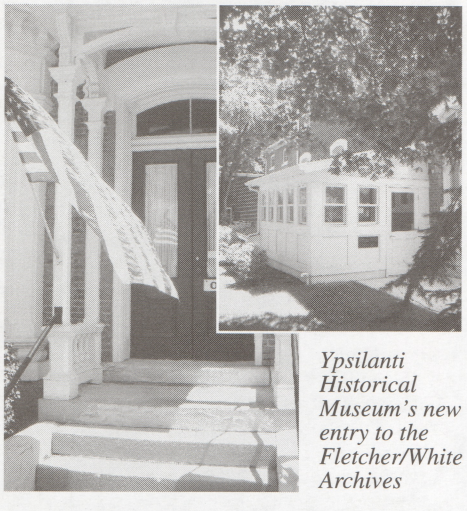
New doors are mostly placed at the rear of the buildings. A few new replacement doors are painted in colors that fit the rest of the façade and locals pretend they don't notice. But we do; we're a lot more sensitive than you might think just from looking at us.

Many of our old doors are original to the buildings. It is difficult to find new hinges or handles that fit a door that was built in 1835.

Screen doors, once characterized by the head of the Historical Commission as "giving that satisfying 'thump, whack' when slammed," proliferate on this block. They're more efficient than air conditioning. Just don't let the dog out.



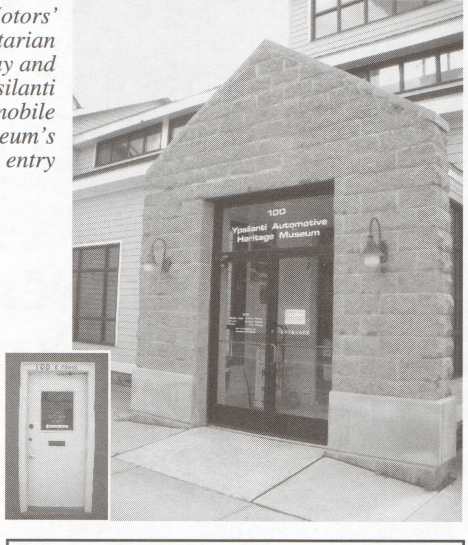
Blend of old and new doors brings history up to date



Ypsilanti Historical Museum's new entry to the Fletcher/White Archives

Miller Motors' utilitarian doorway and the Ypsilanti Automobile Museum's new entry

Michigan Firehouse Museum's original red doors are modernized in the new addition to the east — to let in antique fire trucks and modern people



SILVER & GOLD COINS

Olde Towne Coin & Gold

Certified Member ANA/JA/PNG/MRA/N.F.I.B.

In historic Depot Town for 31 years

24 E. Cross Street **734.483.6155**

FAX: 734.485.8300

Cakes, Pies, & Cupcakes

BY APPOINTMENT

the QUEEN OF HEARTS

Pastries & Bakery, Inc.

(734) 487-9223

32 E. Cross St.

www.queenofheartspastries.com

Opening Doors of Opportunity

YPS offers a variety of learning opportunities including:

- Montessori classes at Perry CDC
- Algebra Project for YHS freshmen
- New Advanced Placement Classes at YHS
- Participation in the Early College Alliance at EMU
- New technology in all renovated schools

YPSILANTI PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EXCELLENCE • TRADITION • PRIDE

To learn about the YPS advantage call (734) 714-1202

www.ypsd.org

Strong from Start to Finish

Shankwiler 123 Art · Ebay · Baseball Cards

35 E. Cross St. 487-9150 shankwiler123.com

Look for our local artist tent at this years

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

right in front of the store!

* MOST ITEMS WILL BE under $50.00

Ypsi Images at the *Nelson Amos Studio*

Original Paintings, Prints, Calendars, cards & coasters

9 E. Cross Street

734-484-2787

www.nelsonamosstudio.com

When one door shuts, another opens

-Proverbs, 226 Lazarillo, (1586)

Journalism students are taught not to be discouraged when they are looking for facts for a story and doors get slammed in their faces. "Many of the doors won't open," says their college professor, "but when one does, go through it—even if it's not the source you were looking for in the first place. There's a story in there."

That good advice for varying our sources has been an unwritten rule in old commercial districts like Depot Town. The people who built these places are long gone and the building uses have changed over the years, but the doors keep opening and closing on new purposes, ideas, and interpretations.

Sustaining a business in old structures like these necessitates high creativity, skillful marketing, and an ethic as old and regular as the buildings themselves.

While many of this district's original doors have seen hinges, locks, and handles replaced by more modern hardware, the doors still open to a manner and style nearly two hundred years old.

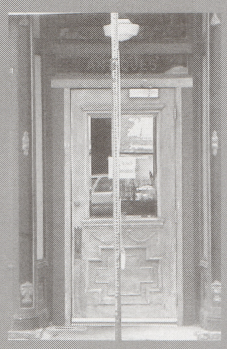
Depot Town's doors are much more than just entries to commercial establishments. They provide metaphors to guide our lives and our businesses. They are more than just part of the Historic District. Keeping them in their original style and in good condition helps to underwrite a quality not often found in a pole-barn strip mall.

"Personality can open doors, but only character can keep them open."

-Elmer G. Letterman

French doors. . . .

Let's ID *them* for a change



Most Depot Towners easily recognize the doors of Celebrations, Sidetrack, Sticks, and Aubree's, but how many knew of Skip's boardwalk bistro in Dunedin, FL? (bottom right) or Bryan French's door in Marquette, MI? (left)

A French family tree:

Aubrey and Nancy French *(Alibi Bar)*

- **Gerry** *(Founding president of DTA, Depot Town Community Development Corp)*
- **Bill & Sandee** *(Aubree's Pizza Empire, Sticks, DTA presidents often)*
  - **Jeffrey** *(Aubree's on Whittaker Rd.)*
  - **Andy** *(CFO, Aubree's Saloon)*
  - **Bryan** *(Aubree's, Marquette,MI)*
- **Linda**
  - **Jessica** *(Sidetrack Bar & Grill, Frenchie's)*
- **Skip** *(on the boardwalk at Dunedin, FL)*
- **David** *(Frog Island Beer)*

From our local farms to your kitchen

Ypsilanti Food Co-op

Great food & friendly service since 1975.

312 N. River
Ypsilanti
Michigan 48198

734.483.1520

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily

HARRINGTON'S
STANDARD PRINTING
In historic Depot Town
John & Pattie Harrington
120 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
734.483.0339
Fax 734.483.3130
email: info@ypsistandard.com

KNOBS to go with your doors!
World of Rocks®
Crystals, Minerals, Fossils and Beads
Custom Beadwork • Handwrapped Specialties • Findings • Classes
734-481-9981
www.worldofrocks.com
I-94, Exit 183
42 N. Huron
Just a few doors south of Depot Town

Visit us at the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum
Hours:
Mon-Fri
1:30-5pm
Sat 10am-5pm
Sun. noon-5pm
www.ypsiautoheritage.org
Admission
Adults $3
Children under 12
accompanied by an adult free
(734) 482-5200
100 E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

MICHIGAN FIREHOUSE MUSEUM
Fire Truck Muster
August 29th
110 W. CROSS
734.547.0663
Tues-Sat 10 - 4
Sunday 12-4
Closed Monday
Adults $3
FF/Sr/Stu $2
6-15 $1.50
Under 6 Free

Ypsilanti Historical Society
Museum and Archives
(free admission)
Hours: 2:00 to 5:00pm
Tuesday thru Sunday
220 North Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
www.ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org
Museum: 734-482-4990
Archives: 734-217-8236

"Fairy Doors" not yet popular in Ypsilanti

What's up with those adorable little "Fairy Doors" we've heard about in Ann Arbor?

"It's not as if The National Geographic Society is financing my research," says Jonathan B. Wright as he touts his book, "Who's Behind the Fairy Doors?" An Award-winning finalist in the "Children's Novelty & Gift Books" category of the National Best Books 2007 Awards, Wright's book is available at several Ann Arbor book stores and galleries, but no Ypsilanti outlets are listed.

One wonders: Should we feel left out? Are those Arborlanders snubbing us?

Enchanted Gardens sells precious ceramic fairy doors to place around your garden to make up for a summer drought that has dried up all your flower blossoms. The Enchanted Gardeners explain, "A fairy door is a miniature door that provides your fairies, gnomes, and all the magical wee fae an easy portal into your home and garden. Step into the magical world of fairy doors."

Poet/entrepreneur "Shannon" writes,

"A door for a fairy to enter your home
A door for a fairy, an elf, or a gnome
Placed in your office, garden or car
Will let fairies gather wherever you are
Or placed on a wall in a bedroom, you see,
Says, 'Please come and dance, keep me safe while I sleep.'"

But it doesn't rhyme. All Fairy Poems should rhyme, as did Morris Bishop's poem we remember from our childhood:

How to Treat Elves

I met an elf-man in the woods,
the wee-est little elf!
Sitting under a mushroom tall
'twas taller than himself.
"How do you do, little elf,"
I said, "and what do you do all day?"
"I dance and frolic about," said he,
"and jump about and play!
"I su'prise the butterflies, and when
a katydid I see,'
Katy didn't!' I say to him,
and 'Katy did!' he says to me!
"I hide behind my mushroom stalk
when Mister Mole comes through,
and only just to fwighten him
I jump out and say, 'Boo!'
"And then I swing on a cobweb swing,
up in the air so high!
And the crickets chirp just to hear me sing,
'Upsy daisy die!'
"And then I play with the baby chicks—
I call them, 'Chick! chick! chick!'
And what do you think of that?" said he.
I said, "It makes me sick."
It gives me sharp and shooting pains
to listen to such drool,
so I lifted up my foot and squashed
the goddamned little fool.

Editor's note: Has anyone spotted any of this cuteness in Depot Town? Be on the alert for Fairy Doors in the block and be sure to report them to the authorities immediately.

In the next *Rag*:

Bumptious branding and magical marketing. How Ypsi has sold itself to the world over the years....

Depot Town Rag

"All the news that fits, we print"
A monthly publication of
the Depot Town Association, Inc.
The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

The Depot Town Association, Inc.

Gary McKeever, President
Merrill Guerrea, Vice President
Ruth Ann Jamnick, Treasurer
Sandee French, Scy. & Past President

To the editor:
thomasdodd@comcast.net

DTA meets at 6:30 p.m on the third Wednesday of each month at Café Luwak, 42 East Cross Street.

Dilapidated depot doors date the district

Disgusting as they are, the neglected doors at the building that gives us our name give authenticity to the historical character of the neighborhood. Some locals contend that the sad and forlorn doors at the depot serve to keep us honest.

"WATCH OUT FOR THOSE SWINGING DOORS!"

CORNER BREWERY
Café • TV Lounge • Beergarden
Keep your cash in Ypsi
Support your local everything
720 Norris - Forest between Huron & River
480-BREW • cornerbrewery.com

Our doors have been swinging since 1878!
Aubree's PIZZERIA & TAVERN
• Best Pizza in Town • Projection TV's w/Soundog
• Daily Happy Hour Specials • The Game is Always on!
39 E. Cross Street • 483-1873

SIDETRACK Bar and Grill
56 E. Cross Street 734.483.1035
rated by GQ Magazine - Top best Burger in the country
Reserve FRENCHIE'S for your next meeting
Check out our historic bathroom doors!

Help get those Freighthouse doors open with the purchase of a bottle of
YPSILANTI FREIGHTHOUSE
special issue wine $15
Available August 1 at Ypsilanti Food Co-op, Sidetrack, Keystone Martini Bar, HAAB's, J Neils Mongolian BBQ, Pub 13
www.foyf.org

Check out our Weekend Breakfast Buffet
CAFE LUWAK
SANDWICHES • ICE CREAM • ESPRESSO DRINKS
Voted Best Sandwich Shop in Southeast Michigan
42 E. Cross st.
734.482.8050
Fax 734.482-FOOD
Info@cafeluwak.com
www.cafeluwak.com
FREE WIRELESS INTERNET!
• Premium Deli Sandwiches
• Homemade Soups & Sides
• Espresso & Coffee Drinks
• Stroh's Premium Ice Cream
• Catering Services

Doorways to the World! ...right here in Michigan!

Battle Creek: *Breakfast Capital of the World, Cereal Bowl of the World & Cereal City*

Berrien Springs: *Christmas Pickle Capital of the World*

Eau Claire: *Cherry Pit Spitting Capital of the World*

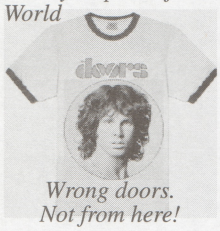
Kalamazoo: *Bedding Plant Capital of the World, Celery City. Mall City, and Paper City*

Mesick: *Mushroom Capital of the World.*

Muskegon: *Beer Tent Capital of the World AND Lumber Queen of the World (also Port City, and The Riviera of the Midwest)*

South Haven: *Blueberry Capital of the World*

Traverse City: *Cherry Capital of the World*



Wrong doors. Not from here!

They're knocking on our door!

Child psychologists contend that the kid with the most nicknames is the most-loved person in the family. From the response to the "Ypsitucky Jamboree" bluegrass festival on September 4 & 5 in Riverside Park, Ypsilanti is right up there with the most loveable.

Towns all over Michigan are known by aliases, sobriquets, and slogans—some self-chosen, others imposed. City nicknames help establish a civic identity, help outsiders recognize a community or attract people to a community because of its nickname; they promote civic pride and build community unity. Old-timers in Depot Town remember the days of the bomber plant at Willow Run when every spare room in town was turned into an "apartment" for workers who arrived from the south to support the World War II effort. Landlords welcomed them, but those left out of the profit scheme were resentful against "hillbillies coming here and ruining our town while they won the war for us".

Much of the division of the area's three school districts is traced to that cultural division. "Ypsitucky" became a popular slur to keep those gentle southerners relegated to second-class citizenship.

Some of us even rankle at the term "Ypsi" and hold that only long-time residents should use the shortened version.

Nicknames and slogans that successfully create a new community "ideology or myth" are also believed to have economic value. This is difficult to measure, but there are anecdotal reports of cities that have achieved substantial economic benefits by "branding" themselves through new slogans. Depot Town's Community Development Corporation has invested in marketing the "Jamboree" and has met criticism from several sides for naming the event for southern patriots who emigrated here sixty years ago. Some folks just love it; but others don't want to be connected to what they still view as a cultural slur.

Loquoulm

Posted May 18, 2009 by Permalink at http://www.facebook.coml; MarkMaynard.com.

"As a linguist, I find this contemporary conversation at redefinition (amelioration) quite engaging.

"I will contribute that more terms than you may realize began as pejoratives. They cease to be pejorative when the group who had been "previously ascribed negative attributes" establishes power. This power can be actual (for example, a voting majority) or self-actualizing (for example, continuing to operate in defiance of the "values" implicit in the voting majority's labels).

"I won't weigh in on this debate other than to say this perhaps is a truly defining moment in your history. One vital question all minority and oppressed populations face is what definition they accept and affirm about themselves. Various groups' ability to transform terms rather than being subjugated to them is a powerful predictor to their eventual success.

"My favorite case studies are "going Dutch" versus "Quaker oatmeal" although "Ypsitucky," among Michigan's many "-tuckies," deserves a fuller analysis."

Rear door of the DTA Caboose: "Firmly rooted in the past— with a clear view forward."

Can Ypsi find itself in the Johari Window?

	Known to self	Not known to self
Known to others	Arena	Blind Spot
Not known to others	Façade	Unknown

The Johari Window is a cognitive psychological tool created by Joseph Luft and Harry Ingham (Joe & Harry) in 1955, used to help people better understand their interpersonal communication and relationships.

The Arena is the part of ourselves that we see and others see. This is the most recognizable portion of our promotional programs. We dance in the streets regularly.

The Blind Spot is the aspect that others see but we are not aware of. City planners like to warn us, but we don't listen. Look at our one-way streets headed out of town.

The Façade is our private space, which we know but keep from others. It's usually not for sale and only our mothers and analysts appreciate it. It's a great place to hide––but it's lonely there.

The Unknown is the most mysterious in that the unconscious or subconscious bit of us is seen by neither ourselves nor others. Here's where we may hold out for subliminal images, illicit drugs, and afterhours parties.

ENCHANTED FLORIST, inc.
46 E. Cross St. • Ypsilanti, MI 48198
(734) 547-9230
"Service with a personal touch."
Specializing in all of your personal & corporate needs

$5 off an in-store purchase of $19.95 or more
free local delivery on arrangements of $29.95 and up (a value of $7.95)
Only one offer can be used at a time. Not valid with any other offer or in-store specials.

Exciting Business Opportunity

Just in time for Back to School!

RealKidz promotes self esteem in girls by providing age-appropriate clothing for 5–12 yr. old girls of all sizes.

Visit our website for more information on our earnings opportunity and mission.

www.realkidzclothing.com
308 N. River St. • info@realkidzinc.com

Ypsi still arguing over name(s) for our door

Last spring's big flap over what to call our September festival of country music reminds us of the two doctors who argued for years over what to put on the sign in front of the office they shared.

One doctor was a psychoanalyst; the other a proctologist. In desperation, they hired a public relations and marketing company to offer suggestions:

"Nuts & Butts" was the first suggestion. "Not dignified!" shouted the doctors.

"Rears & Queers" was the next idea. "Not politically correct!" they complained.

Finally they found a nomination that they could all agree on: "Odds & Ends."

What should Ypsilanti hang over its door? Send your suggestions and see them here in next month's discussion of how we market ourselves in this old town: (thomasdodd@comcast.net).

Kimberly RICE
DDS, PLC
FAMILY DENTISTRY
529 N. Hewitt Road
734-434-3820

Clover Computers
Quality Computer Service for our Community
BUY · SELL · TRADE · REPAIR
Calvin Moore & Ryan Myers
50 East Cross Street
734.487.6459
Our door has been open for one year now!

Ad Art Ad Art
CUSTOM GRAPHICS
SCREEN PRINTING
AD SPECIALTIES
DIANE BROWN
Ph.: 517-592-8708
Fax: 517-592-3585
dianebrownadart@aol.com
236 KIRKLEY, BROOKLYN MI 49230

Salt City Antiques
Downtown Ypsilanti
Carol McEachran
115 W. Michigan Ave.
734.487.1259
Sun noon-5pm
Mon 10am-6pm
Thurs 10am-6pm
Fri 10am-8pm
Sat 10am-8pm
Tues & Wed closed

RAGTIME Coming events

Every Tuesday through Sept. 15
Motorcycle Mania

5-8 p.m Thursdays through Sept. 17
Cruise Night

July 31 & August 1
Band Organ Rally

August 7
Kelly Miller Circus

August 21, 22, 23
Ypsilanti Heritage Festival

August 23
Great Train Race

August 29
Fire Truck Muster

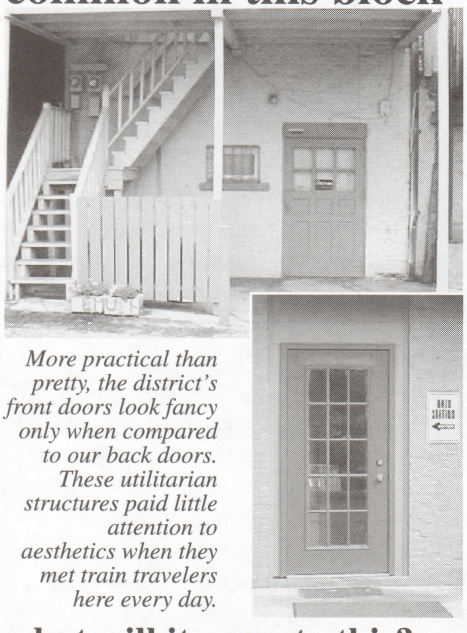
September 4 & 5
The Jamboree

October 3
Antique Truck Show

Baked-on Automotive Finishes • Complete Collision Repair
CITY BODY EST. 1930
20 E. Cross St. • Ypsilanti, MI 48198
734.482.4737 • 482.9353 • FAX: 482-0181
SCOTT SOBBRY BRUCE SOBBRY

THE HAIR STATION
Open our door and your hair comes alive!
48 East Cross 734-485-8228

Back-door gentility is common in this block



More practical than pretty, the district's front doors look fancy only when compared to our back doors. These utilitarian structures paid little attention to aesthetics when they met train travelers here every day.

...but will it come to this?

Back-alley biker bar for Florida senior citizens

Energy Outlet
HOME OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COALITION
Products and advice to help you save energy (and money)!
44 East Cross Street
next to Café Luwak
NOW OPEN!

POTTS STUDIO
REAL STYLE. REAL LIFE.
The door to the future is here
School seniors' sessions 1/2 off!
734.972.2331
www.pottsstudio.com

Candace B. Pinaud
734.476.3366
www.LeaveNoStone.com
Candace@LeaveNoStone.com
First-Time Home Buyer Tax Credit
- up to $8000 -
ends December 1st, 2009
LEAVE NO STONE MORTGAGE LENDING